THIRTY-THIRD

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MERCANTILE LIBRARY COMPANY

OF

PHILADELPHIA.

JANUARY, 1856.

PHILADELPHIA:
J. B. CHANDLER, PRINTER, 123 CHESTNUT STREET, THIRD STORY.
1856.

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
This project is made possible by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services as administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Education through the Office of Commonwealth Libraries

https://archive.org/details/annualreportofma00appr_9

OFFICERS.

PRESIDENT,

WILLIAM E. BOWEN.

DIRECTORS,

1. WILLIAM E. BOWEN,
2. ISAAC BARTON,
3. WILLIAM L. SCHAFFER,
4. JOSEPH C. GRUBB,
5. JOHN J. THOMPSON,
6. WILLIAM ASHBRIDGE,
7. WILLIAM C. PATTERSON,
8. CHARLES H. DINGEE,
9. ROBERT GRAFFIN,
10. A. C. DURBORROW,
11. JAMES BATEMAN,
12. JOHN H. ATWOOD,
13. C. B. LINN.

TREASURER,

CHARLES RHOADS.

SECRETARY,

JOHN J. THOMPSON.

ANNUAL MEETING.

At an Annual Meeting of the Mercantile Library Company, held at the Library, on January 8th, 1856,

CALEB COPE, ESQ., was called to the Chair, and A. T. CHUR, ESQ., appointed Secretary.

The Report of the Directors was then read, and,

On motion, was referred to the incoming Board to take such action upon it as they might deem proper.

The Report of the Treasurer was then read, and referred as above.

The following Resolution, offered by A. S. ROBERTS, ESQ., was adopted:

Resolved, That the thanks of the Stockholders are eminently due, and are hereby tendered to the Board of Directors of the Mercantile Library Company, for their able and successful management of the affairs of the Company during the past year, and for the progressive and substantial improvement exhibited in the general condition of the institution under their charge.

The following amendment to the By-Laws, offered by JOHN SPARHAWK, ESQ., was then unanimously adopted.

ARTICLE II. *Sect.* 10. They shall admit to the privilege of the *Reading Room*, at the written request of any mercantile firm which shall pay into the hands of the Treasurer, annually, the sum of two dollars for each person, such young men as shall be in the actual employment of said firm; Provided, that this privilege shall not be extended to any person beyond the age of twenty-one years.

It was moved by MR. SPARHAWK, that a committee of twenty be appointed by the Chair, to carry the above amendment into effect.

The following gentlemen were appointed:

John Sparhawk, Chairman; William P. Wilstach, Henry Perkins, John W. Sexton, Henry D. Landis, B. W. Richards, jr., Henry C. Blair, S. A. Allibone, Louis C. Madeira, William E. Tenbrook, Charles W. Mitchell, Samuel E. Stokes, John C. Taber, George Young, J. L. Erringer, Joseph C. Grubb, John H. Atwood, William C. Milligan, Benjamin H. Pitfield, George W. Gibbons, jr.

It was then moved to go into an election for officers, and William H. Bacon, Richard Wood and George S. Fox, were appointed tellers.

Whereupon, the meeting adjourned.

CALEB COPE, *Chairman.*

A. T. CHUR, *Secretary.*

REPORT.

The Directors of the Mercantile Library Company are happy to be able to employ, on this, the thirty-third Anniversary, the uniform langnage of the previous Reports, and to conclude their official year with the record of steady progress and prosperity. Like our honored city herself, and so many of her characteristic institutions, the Mercantile Library has advanced with a sound and healthy growth. Founded by discreet, as well as benevolent men, and built up, year after year, in a studious and wise regard for the actual wants of those for whose benefit it was instituted, its history, for a third of a century, may now be written without any humiliating passages—without any narrative of fitful movements and ill-considered measures, entailing loss and regret. The result is that our Institution is in a financial condition upon which the Stockholders may be properly congratulated, and that the Library and Reading-Room, although presenting no imposing number of volumes, or display of periodicals, are found, upon attentive observation, to be surprisingly adapted to the actual demand.

As the pecuniary resources have gradually augmented, the Purchasing Committees have made corresponding advance in the character of the works added to the Library; and this advance will undoubtedly continue. But it has been borne in mind that this Library is, in general, one for *reading* rather than for *reference*, or for

consultation upon recondite subjects; and therefore, while all have rejoiced to see it gradually becoming richer and more comprehensive, it has appeared altogether unwise to make forced purchases of books unknown to the public at large, and undesired, however such a course might gratify a natural emulation, or be regarded by some as liberal and enterprising.

A careful review of the history of our financial affairs will produce the conviction, that in carrying through successfully the project of erecting the building which we now occupy, and in placing the property on a secure foundation, there was needed a most deliberate and cautious foresight. Many institutions of kindred character, in various cities, have suffered severely from the unfortunate issue of undertakings which had held out most flattering prospects; and ours, although never under any embarrassment, owes it as well to the prudence of those who guided its affairs, as to the public spirit of our citizens, that it came triumphantly through the period of expensive enterprise. Such has now been the reduction of the indebtedness, and such is now the financial position of the Company, that our successors may undoubtedly make additions to the Library with increasing freedom, and extend their selection into remoter fields of knowledge.

Calls for works not belonging to the collection are found to be, in fact, unfrequent. Almost all the cases of disappointment are those in which the book desired has been drawn by another; and how far such disappointment can be prevented, by the multiplication of copies, without detriment to the permanent welfare, is one of the most difficult questions to be solved by a

Purchasing Committee. Especially is this a difficult question in reference to publications of ephemeral interest—publications eagerly sought by large numbers for a few months, and then, to say the best of them, worthless lumber on the shelves. It is easy to see that such purchases, in this department, as some would applaud at the time, would ultimately impoverish and degrade the Library.

The additions made during the year number fully seven hundred volumes. The aim has been to allow no new publication of general interest and notoriety, and of suitable character, to fail of being procured. At the same time, the unusual expenditure for rebinding, which was absolutely necessary to the preservation of the books already possessed, and which has been accomplished with most careful attention to durability and economy, as well as to appropriate style, has somewhat restricted the purchase of foreign publications, and of books of a less indispensable class. This rebinding of about fifteen hundred volumes, (at a cost of $536 70) has brought the Library into a comparatively sound condition, especially those portions which are most in circulation. It were greatly to be desired that all who use the books should feel ambitious to promote the prosperity of the Institution by their careful treatment. Could this interest in the preservation of the property be awakened in all our readers, the depreciation would be far less rapid, and the resulting increase and value of the collection would soon exhibit the fruits of such care.

The accompanying Report of the Treasurer shows the receipts of the Company during 1855 to have been $7057 10, and the disbursements $6416 79; leaving,

together with the sum on hand at the beginning of the year, a balance of $893 88. The Company has been increased, during the year, by the addition of sixty-eight share-holders.

In this review of the year we are called upon to notice the decease of two respected fellow-citizens whose loss is severely felt in our community, and whose memory will ever be cherished in connection with the history of the Mercantile Library. To the invaluable services of the late John Fausset, Esq., as our Treasurer, a tribute as full, perhaps, as words could render, was paid in the last annual Report; and any repetition at this time might seem superfluous. We are every day enjoying the benefit of that untiring attention which he devoted to the interests of this Institution; and it is pleasant to reflect that we acknowledged our indebtedness to him before he departed from among us.

In the late Robert F. Walsh, Esq. were united peculiar qualifications for usefulness as a Director of such an institution; and his abilities were faithfully employed in our behalf. It is difficult to give adequate expression to our sense of loss in the removal of one so well fitted to give counsel in our affairs, and so earnest, self-denying, and true in his exertions.

In conclusion, if those in whom the confidence of the members has been publicly reposed, may assume, for the moment, the office of counsellors, they would say, especially to such as are in early life, that the time which can be devoted to reading is unspeakably precious, and should be occupied to the best account. Very few books, in comparison with the whole number, even of those which are of admitted value, can be perused in

the longest life-time. It is the glory of our being, to advance in the knowledge and correct appreciation of what is real and true, and not to live in dreams. The creations of fancy may indeed be invested with literary fascinations, and it need not be denied that with them may be associated many a useful lesson; but, after all, life is short, and existence is full of interesting and weighty realities; and it behooves us to consider seriously how much we can afford to amuse ourselves by looking, even at nature and life, through the colored medium of fiction. It is to be feared that many fall into the error of classing their opportunities for reading, with the hours of mere relaxation and pleasurable excitement. But reading, like attention to business, should, for the most part, have in view positive benefit; and the effort at self-control may be encouraged by the assurance that there is a condition, known to every well trained and cultivated mind, in which the acquisition of knowledge is a high amusement, and the expansion of thought into new regions of truth, sufficiently exciting. Could the Directors, at the close of their official term, by these brief suggestions awaken in any minds a higher sense of the value of the facilities for self-improvement here offered, and prompt any to higher aspirations and aims, they would regard this as by no means the least of the services which they have been permitted to render.

By order of the Board of Directors.

WILLIAM E BOWEN,
President.

John J. Thompson,
Secretary.

LIBRARY FUND.

Dr. **WILLIAM H. BACON, Treasurer, in account with the Mercantile Library Company.** **Cr.**

		Dolls.	C.			Dolls.	C.
1855,				1855.			
Jan'y 1.	To balance cash on hand this date, .	469	45	Dec. 31.	By cash paid for Books, . . .	721	38
Dec. 31.	" cash received from Stockholders for the year, ...	3,424	57		" " " Periodicals, . .	379	95
	" cash received from Subscribers, .	107	00		" " " Binding, . . .	536	70
	" " " Transfer Fees, .	63	00		" " " Librarian's Salary and Assistants, including Janitor's wages,	1,757	25
	" " " 12 Shares Stock, .	120	00		By cash paid for Gas, . . .	247	34
	" " " Entrance Fees, .	12	00		" " " Coal, ...	450	00
	" " " Catalogues, .	17	85		" " " Insurance, . . .	40	00
	" " " Deposite Plan, .	8	00		" " " Incidental Expenses, .	116	95
	" " " Old Newspapers,	15	24		Balance to Cr. of this account, . .	76	45
	" " " Books Replaced, .	21	21				
	" " " Balance of Fines account, ...	67	70				
		4,326	02			4,326	02

COPE FUND.

1855,				1855.			
Jan'y 1.	To balance cash on hand this date, .	105	93	Dec. 31.	By Balance to Credit of this account, .	165	93
Dec. 31.	" one year's interest on Bond of $1000 Chesapeake and Delaware Canal, .	60	00				
		165	93			165	93

BUILDING FUND.

Dr. **WILLIAM H. BACON, Treasurer, in account with the Mercantile Library Company.** **Cr.**

1855.		Dolls.	C.	1855.		Dolls.	C.
Dec. 31.	To cash received for rents as follows:			Jan'y 1.	By balance overpaid on this account, .	321	81
	J. G. Michener.	187	50	Dec. 31.	" cash paid on account of principal of mortgage of $10,000, . . .	1,000	00
	J. B. Howell, ...	87	50		" cash paid Taxes and Water Rent, .	403	00
	T. Snowden and others, . .	62	50		" cash paid Repairs, ...	144	55
	Chas. Wheeler, Jr., . . .	250	00		" " " Interest, ...	605	67
	E. H. Bonsall, ...	300	00		" " " Incidental, . . .	14	00
	W. H. Armstrong, . .	275	00		Balance to credit of this account,	651	50
	John McArthur, including gas, .	302	61				
	Geo. W. Wollaston, . . .	125	00				
	A. J. Fish, ...	250	00				
	Arthur Chillas, ...	75	00				
	Thos. D. Smith, ...	250	00				
	J. Warner Erwin, ...	250	00				
	W. S. Price, ...	250	00				
	Sons of Temperance, including gas, .	310	42				
	John Titus, ...	125	00				
	Error in cash, corrected by former Librarian, ...	40	00				
		3,140	53			3,140	53

RECAPITULATION.

Balance to credit of Building Fund,	$651 50	
" " Cope Fund,	165 93	
" " Library Fund,	76 45	
Cash on hand, . . .		$893 88

Examined, compared with vouchers, and found correct.

JAMES BATEMAN,
CHARLES H. DINGEE, } *Auditing Committee.*

WILLIAM H. BACON, Treasurer.

Philadelphia, December 31, 1855.

LIST OF BOOKS.

The following is a list of the more important books added to the Library during 1855, *arranged in the order of their purchase.*

Chambers—Dictionary of Eminent Scotsmen, 5th and 6th vols.
Mahon—History of England, 7th vol.
Bancroft—History of the United States, 6th vol.
Lewis—American Sportsman.
Gurney, John G.—Life.
Youman—Atlas of Chemistry.
Sidney—Three Colonies of Australia.
Greely, H.—Life by Parton.
Griswold—Republican Court.
Gilfillan—Literary Portraits.
Milnor, Dr.—Memoir by Stone.
Lady Huntingdon and Her Friends.
Binns, John—Auto-Biography.
Englishwoman in Russia.
Baird—Christian Retrospect and Register.
Caldwell, Charles, M. D.—Auto-Biography.
Sozomen—Ecclesiastical History.
Pliny—Natural History, (translated by Bostock.)
James—History of Richard Cœur-De-Lion.
Sargent, Winthrop—History of Braddock's Expedition.
Catacombs of Rome.
Encyclopædia Brittanica, 7th and 8th vols.
Jefferson—Complete Works.
Michelson, Edward H.—England under Queen Victoria.
Annual of Scientific Discovery.
History of Learned Societies.
Bohn—Hand-Book of Proverbs.
Footsteps of St. Paul.
M'Farlane—Life of Wellington.
Cosas Pe España.
Reed H.—Lectures on English Literature.

Rogers—Essay from the Edinburgh Review, 3 vols.
Jay—Mornings with Jesus.
Harper—Gazetteer of the World.
Benton—Thirty Years in the Senate.
Hunt—Elementary Physics.
Wanderings in Corsica.
Philo Judæus—(translated by C. D. Yonge,) 4 vols.
Florence of Worcester—Chronicle.
Condé—History of the Arabs in Spain, 2 vols.
Clarke, Mary Cowden—Concordance to Shakspeare.
Carey, Rev. H.—Biography.
Strickland, Agnes—Queens of Scotland.
Milton—Poetical Works.
Melancthon—Life by Ledderhose.
Moore—Health, Disease and Remedy.
Agnel—Treatise on Chess.
Byrne—Practical Mechanics.
Maury—Physical Geography of the Sea.
Brown—New Zealand and its Aborigines.
Lloyd H. Evans—Egypt under Mehemet Ali, 2 vols.
Hamilton—Travels in Asia Minor, 2 vols.
Turnbull—Travels in Cuba.
Forbes—Five Years in China.
Year Book of Facts, 1855.
M'Farlane—Life of Marlborough.
Prime—Travels in Europe, 2 vols.
Seward, W. H.—Life by Baker.
Moore—Inventor's Guide.
Trench—English, Past and Present.
Poole—Index to the Reviews.
Trautwine—Atrato Survey.
Lyell—Principles of Geology.
Neander—History of Christian Religion and Church, vol. 5.
Dickens—Complete Works, 4 vols.
Beverley—History of Virginia.
Gerstacker—Travels in Rio Janeiro, Corderillas, &c.
Leslie and others—Polar Seas and Regions.
Odenheimer—Jerusalem and its Sacred Localities.
Hooke—Roman History, 11 vols.
Whitefield Rev. Geo.—Letters, 3 vols.
Shakspeare—Theobald's edition, 7 vols.
Carlton—Irish Peasantry, 3 vols.
Edgar, J. G.—Annals of the Nations of Modern Europe.

Polyanthea, or Miscellaneous Extracts, 2 vols.
Malcolm—Central India, 2 vols.
Seward, Wm.—Anecdotes of Distinguished Persons, 4 vols, 1804.
Adalbert, Prince—Travels in South of Europe, Brazils, &c., 2 volumes.
Bailey—Essays on Opinions and Truth, 2 vols.
Gilpin—Scotch Tour, 2 vols.
Swinburne—Travels in the Sicilies, 2 vols.
Lewis—Jamaica Journal.
Revolution in Bengal in 1757.
Knight Charles—British Costume.
" Elgin Marbles.
Earls and Earldom of Flanders.
Kenrick—Poems.
Psalmanaazaar, Geo.—Description of Formosa.
Letters from Barbary, France, Spain and Portugal.
Alexander, J. H.—Dictionary of Weights and Measures.
Sprague—European Celebrities.
Howitt Wm.—Boy's Adventures in Australia.
Blessington, Countess of—Memoirs, 2 vols.
Drew—Immortality of the Soul.
Johnston—Chemistry of Common Life, 2 vols.
Circumnavigation of the Globe.
Tri-colored Sketches of Paris.
Conybeare and Howson—Life and Epistles of St. Paul, 2 vols.
Wornum—History of Painting.
Melville, Henry—Present State of Australia.
Warr—Dynamics, Machinery, &c.
Giles, J. A.—History of the Ancient Britons, 2 vols.
Astie, J. F.—Augustan Age of France.
Grote, Geo.—History of Greece, 9th, 10th, and 11th vols.
Zschokke—History of Switzerland.
Eames, J. A.—Another Budget.
De Marguerites, Julie—Ins and Outs of Paris.
Fowles, J. H.—Sermons and Memoir.
Lamartine—History of Turkey, 1st vol.
Leisure Hour, 3 vols, 1852, 1853, 1854.
Reynolds Richard—Life by H. M. Rathbone.
Wheeler G—Homes for the People.
M'Elligott—American Debater.
Boulden J. E. P.—American among the Orientals.
Michelet—Women of the French Revolution.
Davis—History of the American Medical Association.

Boardman—The Great Question.
Huc, M.—Travels in the Chinese Empire, 2 vols.
Bancroft—Literary and Historical Miscellanies.
Ossoli M. F.—Woman in the Nincteenth Century.
Flanders, H.—Lives and Times of the Chief Justices.
Hase—History of the Christian Church.
Jameson—Common Place Book.
Griswold, Bishop—Life by Stone.
Carlisle, Lord—Diary in Turkish and Greek Waters.
Kitto—Cyclopædia of Biblical Literature, 2 vols.
Barker—Historical Account of the Crimea.
Laing—Sea Kings of Norway, 3 vols.
Liebig—Principles of Agricultural Chemistry.
Abbott—Life of Napoleon Bonaparte, 2 vols.
Natural History of New York, (Agriculture,) Part 5, by E. Emmons.
D'Angouleme Marguerite—Life by Freer, 2 vols.
Forrest—Every Boy's Book, 3 vols.
Seymour—Evenings with the Romanists.
Fullom—History of Woman.
Gihon—Annals of San Francisco, &c.
Island Empire.
Whitecross—Moral and Religious Anecdotes, 2 vols.
Waldenses—History.
Tulloch—Theism; Burnett Prize Treatise.
More—Captives of Abbs Valley.
Lowrie, Walter M.—Memoirs by his Father.
Washington—Life by Irving, 1st and 2d vols.
Bard—Waikna, or Adventures on the Mosquito Shore.
Jarvis—Art-Hints, Architecture, Sculpture and Painting.
Bell—Mineral Springs.
De Quincey—Note Book.
Simeon, Rev. Chas.—Life by Carus.
Fox Henry Watson—Memoirs by G. T. Fox.
Dix—Unholy Alliance.
Nicholas and the Sultan—Memoirs.
Tennyson—Maud.
M'Cormick—Visit to the Camp Before Sevastopol.
Doran—Habits and Men.
Johnson, W. A. B.—Memoir by Tyng.
Kelly—History of Russia, 2 vols.
Barnes—Essays and Reviews, 2 vols.
Mahan—Modern Mysteries Explained and Exposed.

Tomes—Panama in 1855.
Brown—Pious Dead of the Medical Profession.
Howitt, Wm.—Land, Labor and Gold, 2 vols.
Smith, Sidney—Memoirs by Austin, 2 vols.
Bayne—Christian Life, Social and Individual.
Tales from English History.
Young—The Christ of History.
Bartol—Pictures of Europe.
Duncan—History of Russia, 2 vols.
Wayland—Elements of Moral Science.
Hildreth—Japan as it Was, and Is.
Massey, Gerald—Poems.
Bungener—History of the Council of Trent.
Byle—Priest, Puritan, and Preacher.
Whately—Future State.
Kingsley—Village Sermons.
Longstreth—Hive and Honey Bee.
Schaff—America, Political, Social, and Religious.
Smith—Aurauanians.
Herbert—Henry 8th and his Six Wives.
Kingsley—Phaeton.
Drake, Daniel—Memoirs by Mansfield.
Wilson—Treatise on Punctuation.
Baldwin—Representative Women.
De Vere—Stray Leaves from the Book of Nature.
Spencer, Thomas—Memoir and Discourses; by Dr. Raffles.
Taylor, Bayard—India, China, and Japan.
Curran—Life by his Son.
Opie, Mrs.—Complete Works, 3 vols.
Giles—History of Alfred the Great.
Lippincott—Pronouncing Gazetteer of the World, 2 vols.
Prentiss, S. S.—Memoir.
Spalding—Japan Expedition.
Davies and Peck—Dictionary of Mathematics.
Thompson—Christian Theism.
Doran—Table Traits.
Dickens—Complete Works, 20 vols.
Cooper, J. F.—Complete Works, 33 vols.
De Quincey—Klosterheim.
Baskerville—Poetry of Germany.
Lawrence, Amos—Diary and Correspondence.
Calhoun—Works, 5th and 6th vols.
Edwards, Justin—Life by Hallock.

M'Cosh—Divine Government, Physical and Moral.
Foote—Sketches of Virginia.
Early Travels in Palestine.
Humboldt—Travels and Researches.
DeBoismont, A. B.—History of Dreams, Visions, Magnetism, &c.
Raleigh, Sir W.—Life by Tytler.
Northern Coast of America, and Hudson's Bay Territories.
Augustine St—Life and Labors, by Schaff.
Walker—God Revealed in Creation and in Christ.
Doran—Queens of England of the House of Hanover, 1st and 2d volumes.
Hackett—Illustrations of Scripture.
M'Ilvaine—The Truth and Life.
Dods—Spirit Manifestations Examined and Explained.
Lawrence—Lives of British Historians, 2 vols.
Whately—Good and Evil Angels.
Hotz—Moral and Intellectual Diversity of Races.
Anderson—Bible Light from Bible Lands.
Longfellow—Song of Hiawatha.
Smucker—Catherine Second and her Successors.
Hawks—Oliver Cromwell.
Hall—Sketches of Irish Character.
Wells—Year Book of Agriculture.
Wilson—Mexico and its Religion.
Reed—Lectures on English History.
Wood—Modern Pilgrims, 2 vols.
Taylor, Bayard—Poems of Home and Travel.
Bailey—The Mystic.
Jervis—Boyhood of Great Painters.
Macaulay—Speeches, 2 vols.
Barrington—Personal Sketches of his own Times.
Harris—Patriarchy.
Stowe—Philosophy of the Plan of Salvation.
Post—The Skeptical Era.
Clay Henry—Private Correspondence by Colton.
Bonner—Child's History of the United States, 2 vols.
Bulfinch—Age of Fable.
Sevigné, Madame. Letters—By Mrs. Hale.
Walker—Manly Exercises.
Arnold—Christian Life.
Prescott—Philip the Second, 2 vols.
Cleveland and others—Village and Farm Cottages.
Browning—Men and Women.

Goethe—Life by Lewes, 2 vols.
Swift—Life and Works.
Taylor—Statistics of Coal.
Allen—India, Ancient and Modern.
Barnes—Way of Salvation.
Thackeray—Ballads.
Duyckinck—Cyclopædia of American Literature, 2 vols.
Squier—Notes on Central America.
Allibone, Susan—Memoirs.
Moore—Songs and Ballads of the American Revolution.
Bayly—Treatise on Languages.
Schiller—Sämmtliche Werke, 2 vols.
Bohn—Hand-Book of London.
Charles XII.—History by Voltaire.
Henderson—Divine Inspiration.
Miall—Bases of Belief.
Goethe—Schriften, 2 vols.
Fessler—Abalard und Heloisa, (German,) 2 vols.
Voyages de Gulliver, Edition Illustrée Par Grandville, 2 tomes.
Bibliotheca Sacra, 6 vols.
Le Nouveau Conducteur dans Paris, &c., 2 tomes.
Lamartine—Histoire des Girondins, 4 tomes.
Cinq Mois Aux Etats-Unis, Paris.